

REPORT

Of the Committee on Naval Affairs, on the petition of Julia Lawrence, with "A bill further extending the term of half pay pensions to the widows and children of Officers, Seamen, and Marines, who died in the public service."

DECEMBER 19, 1823.

Read, and, with the bill, committed to a Committee of the whole House to-morrow.

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was committed the petition of Julia Lawrence, widow of James Lawrence, late a Captain in the Navy of the United States, praying for a continuance of her pension,

REPORT:

The pensions allowed by law to the widows and orphan children of officers, seamen, and marines, who were killed, or died of wounds received in battle in the Naval service during the late war, were originally limited to five years; by a subsequent act, passed the 3d of March, 1819, they were extended for five years more. The fund provided by law for the payment of these pensions, being invested in public stocks, and otherwise profitably disposed of, has been more than sufficient, for several years past, to accomplish that object without any encroachment on the principal, as appears by the report of the Commissioners, made to Congress at the last session; and there is reason to expect that, while the fund is increasing, the number of pensioners will annually diminish. The Committee, therefore, believe that there is no occasion to discriminate, even if any ground of discrimination exists, between the case of the petitioner, and that of others comprehended under existing laws; and they respectfully report a bill extending the period of their pensions for the further term of five years.

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